

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper



LEB gets dumped

Barrels symbolising containers of nuclear waste were deposited on Thursday 22 November outside the LEB showroom in Stoke Newington. They were dumped on the doorstep of the local nuclear power agency by people who live along the North London rail line, in protest against the transportation of radioactive waste through London, and the nuclear power programme.

This particular date was chosen to highlight the fact that on that day four people were standing trial in Scotland for opposing the nuclear power programme. The four accused were arrested with 23 others on 3 May this year when demonstrators erected a windmill and held a picket in front of the proposed nuclear power plant in Torness, Scotland. Behind charges like "breaching of the peace" and "rescuing of prisoners", the main purpose of this massive police action involving 800 officers including helicopters against 150 demonstrators was to intimidate and punish those who carry out protest involving direct action.

Torness and the LEB are part of the same nuclear power circle. About 7% of London's electricity is at present produced by the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) from nuclear power. The CEGB and local electricity boards - like LEB - jointly make up the Electricity Council which decides

whether to 'go nuclear'.

The nuclear power plants which produce electricity for London are Dungeness, Bradwell and Sizewell. Their massive amounts of radioactive waste is carried through London by train en route to the reprocessing plant in Windscale where already two-and-a-half tons of reprocessed plutonium has been used for nuclear warheads. These trains transport highly-radioactive substances at least twice a week through London via Clapham, Stratford, Dalston and Willesden and, in the event of an accident, which is not as unlikely as we are led to believe, densely populated areas will be turned into contaminated deserts.

PROTEST

Despite massive protests by Londoners including the Hackney and Brent councils, British Rail and CEGB are not prepared to abandon their irresponsible policies.

The nuclear maniacs have in the past argued for the need for nuclear power on the grounds that uranium is a cheap fuel. They are now shifting towards arguing for fast breeder reactors on the grounds that uranium is scarce and is becoming expensive. The principle of fast breeders is that they produce more fissionable atoms than they burn. So besides generating electricity they produce fuel for other



Above: "Technicians" in simulated white radiation suits dump barrels symbolising nuclear waste outside the LEB in Stoke Newington. (Photo: Donald Bason.)

power stations and warheads for the missiles.

But until Britain becomes an independent nuclear state in terms of military and civil usage the fuel for power stations has to be imported. Rio Tinto Zinc supplies most of Britain's uranium consumption from its uranium mines in Namibia. With the help of South Africa, RTZ exploits the country's natural resources and its black population.

As you can see, the nuclear circle is extensive. People in London and consumers of LEB electricity are part of it. They are responsible for the future and must make sure they have control over it.

ROTTING AWAY!

Incompetence delays women's refuge again

Hackney Women's Aid's plans to re-open their refuge for battered women in the borough have suffered further setbacks in the past weeks, due to the incompetence of Hackney Housing Department.

There has been no refuge in Hackney for over a year. Although a house was allocated to Hackney Women's Aid (HWA) in January, the group has been waiting for the Council to install fire precautions before they can open the refuge to battered women and their children. Now, the house is riddled with dry rot.

At the beginning of August the group pointed out to a housing official that the basement was musty and that mould was flourishing on the floorboards. No action was taken until late October, when the Housing Department

ready. HWA has been waiting eleven months for the Housing Department to undertake this work: must they wait another eleven?

The Department claims it needs to get the money for the necessary work from the Department of the Environment (DOE), and that it is unable to do so until the DOE lifts its moratorium on council house spending.

Why must this money come from the DOE? Is it possible that the Housing Department were waiting for the enforcement of the new Housing Act which enables local authorities to claim money for hostel



HPP in August this year: still no progress.

discovered that the house was suffering from dry rot. This had spread rapidly from the basement over three floors in a matter of months, the speed largely being due to inadequate ventilation in the basement caused by the council workmen who rehabilitated the house last year.

Why was no action taken in August when HWA reported the growth? Now the house needs substantial treatment to stop the dry rot, and the affected parts require re-decoration, although the house was completely decorated before being offered to HWA.

The Housing Department has not yet produced the costings for the necessary fire precautions. Although an assurance was given in September that they would be ready in four weeks, by the end of November they were still not

fire precautions before taking any action? Why, in a borough which underspends on the DOE's (hardly generous) housing budgets, is it not possible to provide one refuge for battered women? Why is ratepayers' money being spent on providing bed and breakfast accommodation for battered women, at a cost of over £140 per week per family (of a woman and three children) when for a relatively small sum the refuge can open to provide accommodation for five to six families?

Perhaps readers would like to ask their councillors the answers to these questions. In the meantime HWA are attempting to find a suitable short-life property to use as a refuge, so that they can provide something for battered women in Hackney.

Getting in the groove

An interesting thing happened at the end of October. There was an election. "Ah," you're thinking, "he's talking about the result of the Presidential election in the States. We're going to get the benefit of that finely-tuned mind and razor-sharp wit discussing the international dimension." But no, you're wrong. Nor am I going to discuss the Labour Party national leadership. There won't be any jokes about "best feet forward" in this column. I want to talk about Hackney. How could I not? Because the result of the two by-elections for Hackney Council held on 30 October were very interesting - to me, at least. And I'm the one with the typewriter. You lot go and get your own to play with!

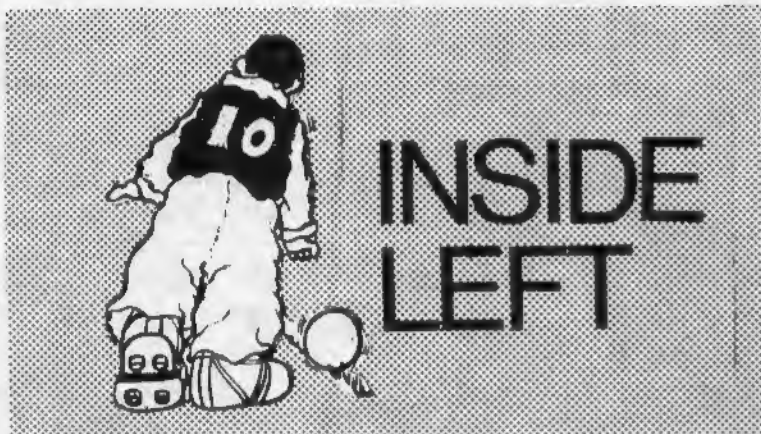
But didn't Labour hold both the Council seats quite comfortably? you're asking yourself. Surely the big upset was the earlier by-election in Wenlock ward, with its spectacular Liberal gain? That is where you'd be wrong. One Liberal gain is neither here nor there in Hackney. Even seven Liberal gains, like there were in Tower Hamlets in the 1978 election, would not be significant for anyone, except as a heart gladder for the few Liberals in the borough. There is

a natural party of government in Hackney and it is, of course, the Labour Party. By divine right made incarnate through the holy ghost of Herbert Morrison, Labour Rules OK!

The significance comes in the persons of the new councillors elected in both Rectory and Chatham. Both of them are regarded by those who know best as being of the left. (This term needs some explanation in terms of Labour politics in Hackney, since both factions of the Council call themselves left-wingers. And both of them have some pretty right-wing left-wingers in them. It would take a master tactician of the calibre of Brian Clough, himself a candidate for membership of the Westminster All-Stars sometime in the near future, it seems, to sort out this confusion.)

DOMINATION

Both Rectory and Chatham wards are in Hackney Central constituency, and therefore the candidates had to be endorsed by that party's general management committee. I do not need to remind you of that party's long domination - against the Labour Party's own internal rules



- by the clique that rule the Council. It was to be expected that Rectory, bordering as it does on the reds of Hackney North, would have a large number of "new left" members, enough to ensure the ward's nomination of a "new left" candidate. Indeed the election was delayed and delayed for over a year until the local party judged they could go ahead without having a candidate who was not some bone-headed oldster dredged up from the past foisted on them. As it was, they had to select John McCafferty, who does not live in the ward - who, in fact, only recently moved to Hackney. But that's the way the selection procedure works in the Labour Party.

In Chatham ward, John Kotz' home ground, the situation was widely expected to be different. Here was surely the place for pushing forward some tedious right-winger with extreme prejud-

ices against travellers and gypsies or who had served with conspicuous lack of distinction as a tenants' representative on Council committees before, as had happened in earlier by-elections in Hackney Central, but that was not the result. There were dire rumours that some coup like the return of Lou Sherman might be pulled off, but apparently there was just the one nomination, partnership wizard Charles Clarke.

LANGUAGE

The old guard's attitude to Comrade Charles is quite fascinating. They obviously see him as the person who can bridge the generation gap between themselves and the young lefties. A token young person, like Cliff Richard, or a Blue Peter presenter. Someone who talks the same language as they do. "Yeah,

groovy! Right on! Far out!"

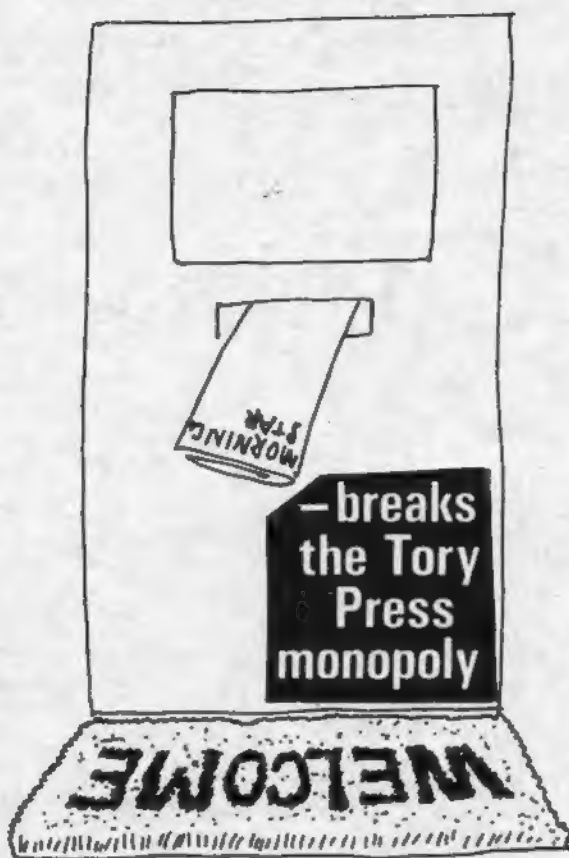
The old are therefore hoping that what they see as the more sensible of the young will be brought over to their side. There are signs that this is already occurring. The Broad Left group, which once numbered more than 20 people, is a gone and forgotten dream. Its more mature members - in age, that is - like Ron Heisler and Gerry Ross, only antagonise the leadership into almost apopleptic fury. Others like Anthony Kendall, Catharine Hoey and Brian Marsh have been brought into the fringes of the inner circle. Charles Clarke will almost certainly join this happy band.

LEADER

There is a reason for all this. In May next year, John Kotz will take over as leader of the Council, when Martin Ottolangui becomes mayor. Then there will be only one more year before the Council elections. This will almost certainly result in an increase in the number of young left candidates, and therefore councillors. John Kotz will certainly not want to step down as leader after just one year. Who better to present himself as the leader they can all unite behind - the working person's diminutive Michael Foot? The Broad Left is emasculated or bought off, life continues as before. Serenity rules. Too much!

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BR delay at Dalston

Hackney Central and Hackney Wick rail stations, on the Crosstown Link, opened in May 1980. Although the design and exact siting of the stations have been criticised for giving poor value for money, the link to Hackney is a very welcome addition to the borough's public transport.

The third proposed site on this line in Dalston ran into difficulties. British Rail aimed to build the station at Ridley Road, which was the cheapest possible location, allowing for speedy construction. However, the site would have taken up a significant part of the local street market.

As a result, it failed to receive planning consent in September 1978. British Rail were recommended to consider an alternative site using the former station on the west side of Kingsland High Street. Since when nothing appears to have been done. By September 1980, two whole years after the referral back to British Rail, no further design had been submitted to Hackney's Planning Department for approval. The initial drawings are believed to be shuffling to and fro between the Architects' and Engineers' offices of the London Midland Region.

British Railways Board

are now more concerned with passing the buck than with looking at the problem. In a letter to the Council in July 1980, they stated that the two-year delay was due to deferment of planning permission for the Ridley Rd site in 1978.

On further investigation, however, a number of interesting facts have come to light.

Firstly, in March 1980, the GLC agreed to re-imburse British Rail to the sum of £11,940 for expenditure incurred in designing the unacceptable Ridley Road station. That money of course, is underwritten from public funds.

Secondly, the station now proposed at Kingsland High St will extend across the borough boundary into Islington. By the end of September 1980, the Islington Borough Planning Department were still not aware that any station plan was proposed within their boundaries.

The delay in British Rail submitting a design has been attributed to different offices by different people. In September 1980:

- British Railway Board blamed Hackney Council for deferring planning permis-

sion for the Ridley Road scheme;

- The GLC understood that plans drafted by London Midland architects were held up by London Midland civil engineers;
- The Hackney Planning Department understood that the draft plans which had been with the engineers were now with the BR board architect and due to be forwarded to the London Midland planners;
- The Docklands Development team, responsible for paying for the construction, had not recently checked the situation. They assumed that Hackney Borough Council had delayed the scheme by not yet granting planning permission for the latest design, and were concerned to learn that none had been submitted.

Clearly, there are still no finalised plans for the new station in Dalston. Drawings are believed to exist somewhere in a British Rail office, but, despite pressure from Hackney Council, these have not yet been produced for public comment.

Not Again!

Another chapter unfolded last month in the long and sorry saga of St. Leonard's hospital. The City & East London Area Health Authority (AHA) postponed yet again its decision on the future of the Hoxton hospital, but it is almost certain now that the return of full Accident and Emergency cover there is a dead issue.

St. Leonard's has been without full emergency cover for over a year now, with ambulances shipping accident cases across the borough to the Hackney hospital and Barts. Four acute surgical wards have also remained empty since last October. The AHA tried to justify this move on financial grounds, cleverly omitting the fact that the burden of health care has simply been transferred to other hospitals.

At its meeting on 13 November the AHA finally presented its proposals for the future of the hospital. Their decision was that St. Leonard's should become primarily a non-acute hospital, catering for the long-term treatment of elderly patients. There would be a walk-in 'minor injuries' unit - but no-one seems to know what sort of injuries the unit will be dealing with.

The local Community Health Council (CHC) objected to the AHA's proposals on the grounds that they are premature. A spokesperson for the CHC said that acute and

emergency facilities should only be moved out of St. Leonard's when adequate services are provided at the Homerton hospital. But they won't come into operation until 1985. In the meantime what will the 60-70 people who use the Accident & Emergency Dept. at St. Leonard's do?

It was also pointed out that the facilities which are proposed for St. Leonard's are adequately maintained. The CHC spokesperson said they have always acknowledged that acute medicine for the elderly is an important need, but their objection was that resources should be concentrated at St. Leonard's.

It is clear that the AHA is playing a very cautious game; an amendment that 20 orthopaedic beds should be situated at the hospital was deleted in favour of the phrase "adequate orthopaedic beds". This could mean any number, if any.

The CHC's formal objection to the plans means that the issue has been sent to the Health Minister for final consideration. This could take up to a year. In the meantime it must be remembered that St. Leonard's is still a working hospital, providing acute services to the community - and the AHA should not be given the opportunity to close down the hospital altogether.



YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS

Hackney now has another group of community photographers. They are 12 young people in a Centerprise project who meet twice a week to develop and print their photographs.

Photography is used as a way of examining their own lives and the community in which they live, so interests such as music, family, friends, school and themselves are all at the other end of the lens. What is avoided is the candid photo-

graphy and intrusion into privacy so beloved of the national press.

The project is funded by Hackney Youth Office and Capital Radio's Help A London Child, and although there are no places at the moment, there is a good chance that there will be a room in the near future for more interested people. If any young people want more information, they should get in touch with Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

LAND CASH

Here's your chance to turn a dump into a garden (or whatever you like), or just brighten up your street!

Already many Hackney groups have applied for money to do up vacant land, but there is still money left in the Partnership budget which has to be spent before March 1981.

So, if you're still dreaming of allotments, playspace, communal gardens, or whatever - get moving!

All you have to do is identify your piece of land, then ring Keith Webster at Hackney Planning Department, Shoreditch House, 239 Old St, EC1 (tel 739 7600 ex 367) to find out who owns it. Then, if it seems feasible and you still want to go ahead, get an application form for money and a licence from the People in Partnership Office or the Planning Department and send it as soon as possible to 239 Old Street.

If you can't find a piece of vacant land and just want to brighten up your street or

estate with plants, window boxes, shrubs in tubs or whatever - apply to Keith Webster, details as above. He is prepared to consider any ideas for making Hackney greener and brighter.



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HPA EXPO



Winning design by Kevin Graves

An exhibition, Hackney Children Playing, organised by the Hackney Play Association, is on a tour of Hackney Libraries throughout December. Mainly collected from voluntary groups working with local children in after-school clubs and holiday projects, the material includes everything from pottery figures to wool octopuses, brass rubbings and hand-carved nursery toys. Photos of some 20 playschemes include those taken on holidays away - mainly watery ones on barges and sailing boats, in pools and the sea - and project-based events like weaving and painting sessions, parties and celebrations.

Also displayed are the 200-odd entries in our badge-designing contest. Choosing winners put the HPA management committee so far to the test that we created an extra 2 runners-up, who each won a large set of felt-tip pens. Thanks for prizes are due to Centerprise for the book tokens, Mr Music for the record ones; and Alan Everett for arranging a collection at the George Melly concert. Further thanks are due to Ernie Roberts MP, who awarded prizes.

RE-PRINT

Available again from Socialist Challenge is an updated reprint of their very stimulating pamphlet "The Tory Press And How To Fight It". This was first published in the summer of this year, and analyses the national press hysteria caused by the 14 May Day of Action. After successfully mauling the TUC, the Fleet Street moguls went into bat again in September with yet another onslaught on the Labour Party at the conference.

It also looks at the TUC decision to call for the right of reply to bias and distortion, and the support for action taken by print and broadcasting workers. 10p plus postage from The Media Group, Socialist Challenge, 328/9 Upper St, N1.

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PRESS NOTES

How do you think local papers should serve the community? What do you think of the Hackney Gazette? Or Hackney People's Press? Have you heard of the East End News?

These and many other questions will be debated, and maybe answered, at a meeting to be held in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, on Monday 8 December, at 7.30 pm. This

is your chance to see someone from the Gazette trying to defend their rag against the deadly arrows of the HPP guerillas! Come along and root for Hackney's only REAL newspaper...

Kids Rights

Commencing 2 December, there will be a Kids Rights Project running at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8, each Tuesday evening at 7 pm for four weeks. Topics covered will include signing on, social security, rights on arrest and going into care.

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Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party
PUBLIC MEETING
After the conference...

LABOUR'S ALTERNATIVE FOR THE '80s

with

Tony Benn MP

Ernie Roberts MP
Gerry Ross - prospective GLC candidate
Spokesperson from the Gardner's sit-in

on Tuesday, December 2, at 7.30 pm in Stoke Newington Town Hall, admission 20p.

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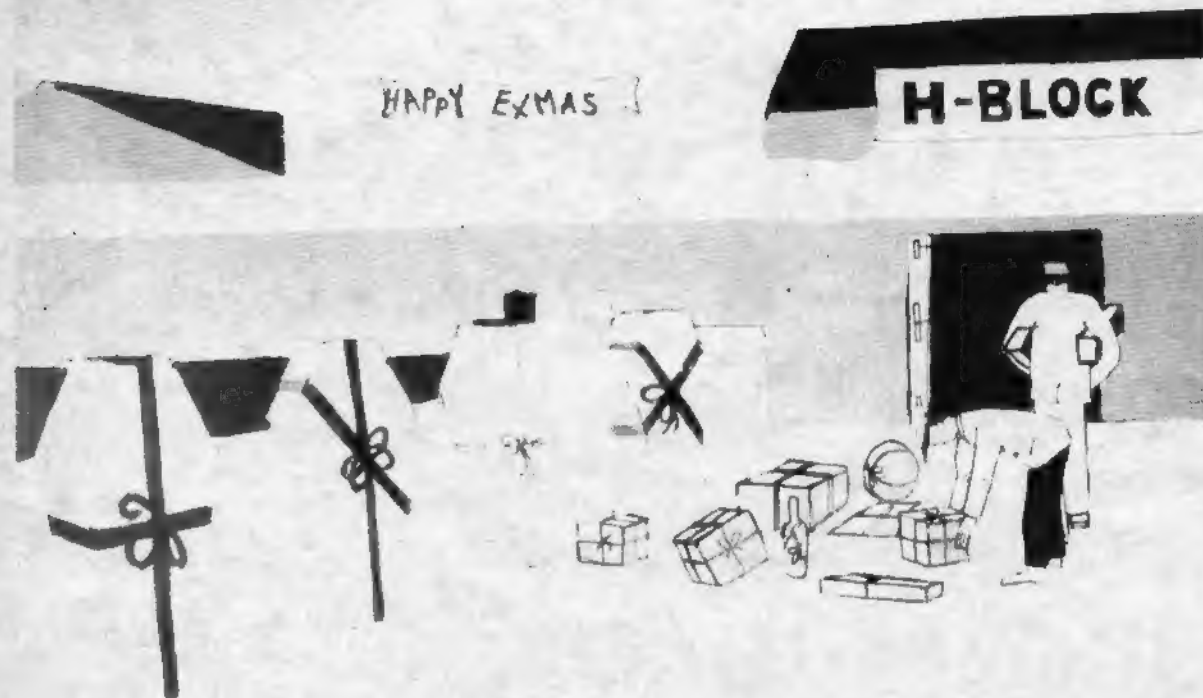
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Happy Christmas: From Thatcher To The People Of Ireland

The hunger strike by the prisoners in H-Block and Armagh for political status is now entering its sixth week. It is calculated that three strikers will go on the danger list from around 6 December and the remaining four 10 days later.

When the H-Block prisoners planned the strike, they found 28 volunteers. They have now given notice that they intend to replace each dead striker to keep the number fasting constant at seven.

This strike is no spontaneous outburst. Prisoners have been trying to get provisional leaders on the outside to support a strike since 1978.

The strikers in H-Block are led by Brendan Hughes, who was commander of the Provisionals' Belfast Brigade at the time of his arrest in 1974. The seven also include John Nixon, the senior Irish National Liberation Army man inside. He may be one of the first men in danger: he received severe intestinal injuries

when shot by soldiers several years ago.

The strikers are demanding political status to which they are evidently entitled, since they were convicted in special "political" courts without juries.

Thatcher has repeatedly said that political status will never be granted.

More than 10,000 supporters of the hunger strikers marched through Dublin last week demanding action by Premier Charles Haughey to persuade Britain to concede political status. There has also been massive support for the campaign in Northern Ireland. It is now necessary to build support throughout Britain.

Every Tuesday evening at 8.30 a Prisoners Action Group meets in Hackney Trades Club to plan and co-ordinate activities around the H-Block and Armagh hunger strikes in the Hackney/Tower Hamlets area. It is open to anyone who supports the hunger strikers on whatever basis. Every Saturday morning

there will be street meetings on the issues in Ridley Road, and at Whitechapel Tube station.

On Wednesday 3 December at 8 pm there will be a public meeting in Hackney Town Hall with a showing of the film "H-Block Hunger Strike". It has interviews with ex-prisoners, relatives and shows Bernadette Devlin/McAliskey making a powerful speech to a 40,000-strong rally in Belfast. It also has shots from inside the H-Blocks. There will be another showing of the film at a public meeting in Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street on Dec 5 at 8 pm.

Both meetings have been organised to generate support for the hunger strikers and to build for a national march on December 7. This march is being organised by an ad hoc committee chaired by local MP Ernie Roberts. It will leave Hyde Park at 1 pm. There is a 24-hour hunger fast organised by ACT on the steps of Hackney Town Hall from the evening of 26 to the evening of 27 November.

THE DEATH OF RICHARD CAMPBELL



Richard Campbell was born on March 11, 1961 in Stockwell; he died on March 31, 1980 in Ashford Remand Centre Middlesex, aged 19. He was a popular guy in south London helping to run the Mafia Sound System. He was a witty and good-natured youth, and had the nickname "Cartoon".

He was arrested on March 1 in Brixton, taken to the police station and held over the weekend. He refused to be fingerprinted and give his name and address - he was wanted for the non-payment of a previous fine. He was taken to Camberwell Green magistrates court on March 3 and remanded to Lewes prison. A week later he returned to Camberwell to be convicted of the attempted burglary of a sports shop in Brixton. He was sent to Ashford Remand Centre for social and psychiatric reports. Three weeks later, he was found dead in his cell in Ashford's hospital wing.

While in Ashford he tried to contact his parents, and went on hunger strike but was force-fed. He was beaten up by screws, was given unknown quantities of the liquid cosh, Largactil, and was handcuffed to a stretcher when taken to Southall psychiatric hospital although he went there as a "voluntary" patient.

The jury held that Richard died through "self neglect", although they added that there should be better medical facilities at Ashford. They first asked if they could return a verdict of death due to the negligence of the authorities but were told by coroner Colonel George McKewen this verdict was not allowed.

The coroner called all the

witnesses and asked nearly all the questions. The family's lawyer was not allowed to call any witnesses or get certain documents presented. All the medical witnesses, bar one, stated that Richard was schizophrenic. Dr Greedharry from Southall Psychiatric hospital said that Richard was "rational and coherent" when he saw him.

So what killed Richard? According to witnesses, Richard was as healthy and stable as he had always been when he entered Ashford on March 10; the doctors claim that at the time of death, Richard had regained nearly all the weight he had lost during his hunger strike. The Home Office pathologist agreed that if Richard had been "properly treated", he would still be alive today.

But Richard is not the first black youth to die at Ashford. According to the Home Office, two other youths died there in 1973.

The Friends of Richard Campbell Committee have been campaigning for a proper inquiry since April. We will not stop until we find out what really happened to Richard. Already five MPs (three Labour and two Tory) have expressed their concern over the death of Richard. Questions have been asked in the House of Commons. But we want your support, too. Only a mass campaign can force the truth out of the government. Support us, join us, give to our fighting fund, invite us to address your meetings. Richard could have been your friend, your brother, your son.

The Friends of Richard Campbell Committee, 135a Lavender Hill, London SW11

Spitting on the people

Labour and Tory joined ranks recently to make drastic cuts in an area of housing need. Tower Hamlets Council Leader Paul Beasley and Deputy Leader of the GLC Richard Brew, have decided to axe the Spitalfields Housing & Planning Rights Service (SHAPRS), making four workers redundant and ending an important service to the local community.

The decision was not made on financial grounds - Urban Aid funding for SHAPRS is apparently still readily available. Instead, claim the SHAPRS workers, Beasley is cutting the service because it is making noises the Council doesn't want to hear: demands for increased public housing, an end to office developments in the area and a reversal of the GLC and borough's "discrimination and victimisation of the Bengali community".

They also point out that Beasley's decision comes at a time when he is publicly calling for a fight against cuts and redundancies.

DISGRACE

Founded in 1979, SHAPRS was a part of the Spitalfields Project, which was set up by the GLC to combat the severe deprivation in the Spitalfields area. GLC housing supremo George Tremlett himself found the housing conditions "appalling" and a "national disgrace". Yet since the Tories have ruled the GLC, say SHAPRS, "not one single home was built".

SHAPRS, on the other hand, has fulfilled what it was set up to do. Despite the difficulties being made over the last 18 months - money

for wages was held up for 3 months - the Service has dealt with individual housing and planning problems of 360 households, helped with the rehousing of tenants from the slum clearance areas of Wentworth Dwellings and other streets, and fought successfully to get the GLC to provide council houses at Hopetown St and Wentworth Street. It has also campaigned to stop further office development, and helped to set up the Spitalfields Housing Co-operative, as well as carrying out detailed surveys of housing need in the area.

For the GLC and Tower Hamlets Council, the truth was too much to bear. Instead of taking action over the needs highlighted by SHAPRS, the two councils decided collectively to replace the Service with a 'new' housing

advisory service totally controlled by them.

The SHAPRS workers are sceptical that such a service would successfully take Tower Hamlets or the GLC to court over such issues as council house repairs or compensation. Instead, they see it as "an attempt to muzzle the local people's voice". They are also concerned that councillors who pretend to represent the aims of the local working population are in fact carrying out the dirty work of the Tories without a second thought. With Labour councils like this, who needs Tories?

Eritrea News

An East End group of the Eritrean Relief Association will be holding a series of film meetings in the locality to focus some attention on the largely unreported and ignored plight of Eritrea. Eritrea's revolutionary struggle for self determination is now in its 20th year.

The first of the meetings is at the Four Corners cinema workshop in Bethnal Green and features a 50 min documentary called 'Sawrana' and made in 1977.

DESIGN FOR DYING

Would you buy a used nuclear fall-out shelter off these men? Or even a new one? For a mere £10,000 you can acquire a piece of "British national inventiveness". So claims Design for Defence Ltd, the latest company to jump on the nuclear shelter bandwagon. Their product is the Honeycomb Bombcell, said to conform to Home Office standards. A rather dubious qualification.

PACKED FLAT

All you need to install a Honeycomb Bombcell is a hole in your garden the size of a small swimming pool. The shelter is designed to be buried 5 feet underground. So all you'll need for this is an excavator, dump truck and two ton crane to lift the shelter over the roof of your house. Alternatively the shelter comes packed flat so you can carry it through the house and assemble it in your back garden. Once installed all you will be able to see of the shelter are the ventilation ports and the concrete round the entrance trap door. What do you get for your £10,000 - or £16,000 if you fancy two of them - or £28,000

for a group of four, linked by telephone and television -? You get protection from a one megaton bomb exploding on the ground 2½ miles away - or a 5 megaton airburst 4 miles away. The Bombcell is rated at 2000 Protective Factor. PF is the "internationally devised formula for radiation protection". The Home Office recommends only 100 PF and the average house offers 15 PF. You also get 3 weeks' supply of water for four people, providing you ration it carefully, a washbasin, sink, "miniature" shower and lavatory, in its own private cubicle.

FRESH AIR

Fresh air comes from a pedal-powered pump, which sucks air through filters to extract radioactive dust, viruses and other nasties. 15 minutes "gentle pedalling" on the bicycle every 6 hours should be sufficient for 4 occupants. Daylight, according to psychologists, is vital for normal bodily functioning and helps reduce panic. The Bombcell is equipped with an "ingenious system" for allowing daylight into the shelter - two tubes running down from

ground level, fitted with lens and mirrors.

Snug in your shelter, your main enemy will, according to Design for Defence, be boredom. The company suggests you take plenty of games, books, a video-cassette with your favourite films, a radio and "plenty of writing materials". These should help tide you over the three weeks until your water runs out. A brochure distributed by Design for Defence even tells the prospective customer what to do when the bomb drops. Assuming you're not already in residence, using up your water supply, it will take only two to three minutes for you and your family to get into the shelter. Naturally this nuclear shelter is designed for the average nuclear family.

EXPORTS

Design for Defence intends to make a killing on the export market. The company sees its product as the salvation of British industry. - It has even arranged a five-year hire purchase facility for customers. It's nice to know they think we've got that long, at least.



Anyone for incarceration? The Home Office particularly liked the spheroidal shape of the Honeycomb Bombcell

Artists Exposed

The first exhibition of work by local artists has just ended at the new Gallery Bookstore at 25 Lower Clapton Road. If you missed this show, in which about eight Hackney people participated, don't worry, because more similar exhibitions are planned soon.

The exhibition was, of necessity, a small one due to limited space. But this meant that it could be taken in during a quick browse around the bookstore while doing the Saturday morning shopping.

In spite of the size, the exhibition was extremely varied and provided plenty of interest. It included photographs, sculpture, prints, paintings and drawings (both abstract and figurative), on a multitude of subjects.

variety

This variety is true of the shop as a whole. It is not a specialist bookstore, but stocks Penguin classics,

second-hand books, children's books and guides to your rights as well as thrillers, romances and science fiction.

Roy Smith, the man behind this bookshop/gallery, hopes that people will be encouraged to come to his exhibitions by being drawn at first into the shop, although he considers his shop as primarily an art gallery.

Books and paintings are not separated and as well as the temporary exhibitions of local art, the Gallery Bookstore displays prints and paintings by two "resident" artists, A E Hance and Andrew Lumsden.

local art

The local work which has just been shown was the output of amateurs, students and of "semi-professionals". One of the liveliest paintings, "Where The Boats Go", was the first and, as yet, only painting of a Hackney nurse. This particular work was not for sale although most of the

other exhibits were, with prices ranging from £12 to £350.

Although this exhibition was confined to the work of people living or working in the borough, the subject matter was not limited to Hackney. Anne Goh's painting of a housing estate could have been modelled on a block of Hackney flats and Mike Gray's warm and atmospheric photograph of Elton Dean performing at Chats Palace were of instant appeal to the browsing local, but there were also some delicate watercolours of Venice by Alan Perrin on show as well as a photograph taken in Istanbul by Mike Gray.

One of the most attractive items on display was an unusually shaped pot with understated decoration by Jutka Fisher. Roy Smith would like to have more contributions from local potters in his next exhibition.

poetry

Roy has many plans for the future of the Gallery Bookstore and would like to expand into areas such as poetry recitals, children's painting classes, and the production of an arts broadsheet. As it is, he sells copies of Hackney People's Press and displays a newsagent-style advertisement board in the window.

Although there is a definite sense of "just starting up" about the shop, the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming, so look out for advertisements for the next exhibition, take along your art works, or just pop in any time to look around - the Gallery Bookstore is well worth a visit.

FROZEN UP

On 22nd October Heseltine called a halt on all grants from central government to local councils for improving or building houses and flats. He also told councils they could not borrow money for these purposes and that they could not make grants or loans for house improvement or building. Home improvement grants to private tenants have been allowed to continue, but not grants or loans to Housing Associations or co-operatives. So there is now a freeze on all improvements and modernisation projects for council, housing association and co-operatives housing. The only schemes to escape the freeze are those where the contract was signed before 22nd October. But there are many projects which were delayed before then. In Hackney council schemes for Morley House, Powell House and 60 properties in the Leswin Road Action Area were held up, awaiting Department of Environment approval. The D of E withheld approval and now the freeze has put a halt to the programmes for these properties.

priority

Before the freeze Lea View and Stonebridge were 'priority' estates for modernisation and improvements and architects had begun drawing up plans. Tenants on these estates are hoping the freeze will thaw soon, or the plans will never get off the drawing board.

These are cases of priority estates. All other estates badly in need of improvement have been affected by the

cuts. Although money for maintenance and repair has not been frozen, the amount has been cut back by 5%. This figure does not allow for inflation either, so fewer repairs will be carried out and there will be even greater delays. Not to mention the effect on the job situation in the direct labour sphere.

rents up

Prompt action by Labour MP's defeated Heseltine's attempt to slip a massive increase in council rents through Parliament. But rent rises are expected to come in the end. Private tenants are also facing massive rent increases. Under the new Housing Act landlords can raise rents every year.

Hackney Council has 18,000 households on its waiting list - and expects to rehouse 66 families on that list this year. This is an all-time low. But there are 2000 empty properties in the borough. This year the council will give over £1 million to owners of Finsbury Park's notorious bed and breakfast hotels. This means £1 million to keep 150 families in hotels. Hackney members of NALGO have blacked work on selling council houses. Other councils are actively refusing to sell council houses. The new act means that good property will be sold off. The Tory GLC has already started selling off its houses in outer London. This means that tenants in Hackney will be unable to transfer out of the borough, or into better housing.

Hackney TENANT

The monthly newspaper of the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations
From newsagents everywhere... 10p

You can't 'live' in Hackney without it!

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WHATS ON December

THEATRE

HOXTON HALL THEATRE

128a Hoxton St, N1; 739 5431

December Programme

* Fri 5: Major Chorlton-cum-Hardy's Music Hall. Perf: 8 pm.

* Fri 12: Carol Concert. 8 pm.
* Also in December, Hoxton Hall Theatre Project presents a CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME, entitled 'Santa Gets The Sack'. Dates and times of performances are as follows:

Fri 19 and Sat 20 at 8 pm.
(matinee on Sat at 2.30 pm)
Sat 27 till Tue 30 at 8 pm.
(matinees on Sun, Mon, Tue at 2.30 pm.)

Tickets: £1 (Children & Claimants 30p; Pensioners 20p; Students 50p.)

LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE

14 Dagmar Passage, Cross St, N1.

* Sat & Sun, Dec 6, 7, 13 & 14: 'Hans The Bellringer' by Johan Fabricius.

This is a Faustian love story for children and their parents, uncles and aunts, and other friends. Set and costumed in the style and time of Breugel. Suitable for everyone over 6 years.

Perfs: 3.00 pm.
Tickets: Adults £1.50, Children £1.

* Saturday matinees for the Very Young; Dec 6, 13, 20: 'Lancelot the Lion' Perfs: 11.00 am. Tickets: Adults £1 Children 75p.

* Dec 20, 21, & 26-30th: 'The Prince and the House' This new production of Oliver Goldsmith's play is by the Resident Company, using a



combination of string and rod puppets. Music and voices are involved but special care has been taken to ensure that the hard of hearing will be able to share in the enjoyment of the show.

Perfs: 3.00 pm.
Tickets: Adults £1.75; Children £1.25.

* Matinees on Dec 27, 30, 31: Montserrat Tinto with the Tinto Theatre D'Ombres. These shows are ideal for the very young. With her shadow puppets, Montserrat Tinto will be presenting 3 shows: 'The Tin Soldier' and, 'Train-Train'.

Perfs: 11.00 am.
Tickets: Adults £1.25 Children £1.

For advance bookings, 'phone 226 1787.

If you want a free listing in our What's On section, send details of your event to HPP, 85 Dalston Lane, E8. Listings for the January 1981 issue should be sent by 19th December.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD EAST

Gerry Raffles Sq, E15; Box Office: 534 0310.

* Dec 1st till Jan 24th: 'Robin Hood'

Written and directed by Alan Klein, 'Robin Hood' claims to be a show for children of all ages between 6 and 60. There's also an impressive line-up of characters eager to take part in the tricks, thrills and adventure of Robin's struggle against his arch enemies.

Toni Palmer, who appears in the film version of 'The French Lieutenant's Woman', plays Robin. Sylveste McCoy of 'Tis Was' fame is the Dame and Bill Wallis of Radio 4's 'Week Ending' is Friar Tuck. Ken Hill and Alan Klein both worked on the Stratford's recent production of 'The Mummy's Tomb', which played to packed houses.

Perfs: 7.30 pm (no evening performances on Dec 1st & 2nd) Matinees: 2 pm (Sats: 2.30).

Tickets: Stalls £3, £2.50; Dress Cir. £3, £2.50; Upper Cir. £1.50; Gallery £1.

Concessions (on most afternoon shows): Senior Citizens £1.25, Schools £1.

THE SQUARE THING (Theatre

Royal, Stratford East) Gerry Raffles Sq, E15. Box Office: 534 0310.

* 2-13 Dec 'Remember Me?'

The first production to be put on in the Theatre Royal's new studio theatre, 'Remember Me?' is the first play by writer Tony Marchant. He began writing a couple of years ago and had his poetry published by the Tower Hamlets Worker Writers Group. Director Adrian Shergold says the play's "about 2 youths who are among Britain's 12% unemployed school leavers - I was particularly interested by the fact that it is by someone writing very much from first-hand experience"; Marchant works for Manpower Services.

Perfs: Mon-Sat 8 pm.

CINEMA

KONAK CINEMA 11 Stoke Newington Road (254 2415)

* From Sun 30 November: 'Scum' & 'Quadruphenia'
* From Sun 7 Dec: 'The Big Brawl' & 'One-Armed Boxer'
* From Sun 14 Dec: 'Flash Gordon' (for three weeks)



RIO CINEMA 107 Kingsland High St, E8. (254 6677)

For details of this month's programme, see the Rio ad.

MUSIC

CROWN & CASTLE

Dalston Junction, E8 (254 3678)

The Meeting Place folk club has Irish folk music every Fri, Sat & Sun evenings. Resident band Cara. Plus surprise guests.

8.30 - 11.00 pm. Free

HACKNEY MUSICIANS' CO-OP

* Sat 6 December: Benefit Concert.

With: Oxy and the Morons, the Managing Directors. 7-10 pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8. (No bar.) Adm. 50p.

THE PEGASUS 109 Green Lanes, N16 (226 5930)

Music every night of the week, including resident jazz/rock bands. Big Chief plays every Sat. night, Alternative Cabaret every other Sunday night. Check with the Pegasus for music on other nights. Admission (unless otherwise stated): £1.

MEETINGS

ERITREAN RELIEF ASSOCIATION

The Eritrean Relief Association is organising a local East End campaign, beginning with 3 film meetings featuring the film 'Sawana'. This tells the story of the war up to 1977, when the Soviet Union intervened on the side of the Ethiopians. There will also be 2 speakers and an exhibition of photographs. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

* Sat 6 Dec, at the Four Corners, 113-115 Roman Rd, Bethnal Green.

* Thu 18 Dec, at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

* Wed 21 Jan, at Livingstone Hse, North East London Poly, Stratford.

CITY & HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

Tuesday 9 December: Public meeting on: 'Family Care of Old People', by Tim Dartington. 12.30 pm, at Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Rd, E2.

MEETING ON THE MEDIA

Monday 8 December: Centerprise will be holding a public meeting on the topic: 'Does the Local Press serve the Community?' Speakers include a journalist from Hackney Gazette, a representative from the East End News, a member of the Hackney People's Press collective and possibly the editor of the Hackney Gazette. 7.30 pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT MEETING

Thursday 11 December: Public meeting to discuss setting up a Community Transport Scheme in Hackney. The speaker will be Cliff Fulford, from Brent Community Transport. 8.00 pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8. For further information, contact Jane Kelly (Hackney Community Link-Up): 729 5536; Martin Franks (The Factory): 249 8909.

HACKNEY PROPAGANDA

Monday 1 December: Open meeting and discussion on the topic: 'Socialist Politics & Working Class Culture in Hackney, 1870-1900'. Speakers are Barry Burke and Ken Worpole. Talk organised by the Hackney Workers' Educational Association.

8 pm at the Labour & Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8. All welcome.

ADVERTISEMENT

CHATS XMAS SHOW

It's Christmas Panto and Party time again at Chats Palace. If you thrilled to the 'Thief of Baghdad' or shivered at the infamies of the 'Icequeen', you won't want to miss Chat's 1980 extravaganza -

Robbin the Rich

- a feast of mediaeval merriment set in the heart of Chatswood Forest where hooded heroes, daring damsels and a multitude of merrymen gather to outwit the grimacing sheriff Guy of Gisborne and his horrible henchmen.

There's plot and counterplot, comedy and music, feasting and games in store for young and old - and a banquet of good food and real ales in the Palace hostelry.

* * *

Dec. 16 - Jan. 10 Tue-Sat at 8pm

No performances Xmas Day or Boxing Day. Extra Performance Monday 29th December.

PARTY BOOKINGS: Adults £1.50; Children & OAP's 50p.
OTHER BOOKINGS: Adults £2.00; Children & OAP's 75p.



42-44 Brooksby's Walk
London E.9

HACKNEY HEALTH CAMPAIGN

Meets on the second Tuesday of every month to discuss issues affecting local health services. Everyone welcome. 7.30 pm at the Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2.

HACKNEY NORTH & STOKE NEWINGTON LABOUR PARTY

Tuesday 2 December: Public meeting: 'Labour's Alternative for the Eighties'. Speakers: Ernie Roberts MP, Gerry Ross (prospective GLC candidate), spokesperson from the Gardner's sit-in. 7.30 pm at Stoke Newington Town Hall, Church Street. Admission 20p.

HACKNEY FIGHTBACK

Meets on the first Monday of every month. The meetings are open to affiliated groups, to discuss strategy for fighting cuts in local services. 8.00 pm at the Labour & Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8. This month there will be a lobby of the next full Council meeting to hand in a petition calling on the Council to take a stand against making cuts.

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL TUC: MONTH OF ACTION

Sunday 30 November: Public meeting. Speakers include MPs and National Trade Union Officers. 10 am at the Leys Hall, Ballards Rd, Dagenham.

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OTHER EVENTS

FRIENDS OF RICHARD CAMPBELL COMMITTEE

Saturday 29, Sunday 30 Nov:
 Public inquiry into the death
 of Richard Campbell.
 10 am - 5 pm at the Garfield
 Community Centre, Clapham
 Junction. (Saturday)
 Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm at the
 Milan Hall, Trinity Road,
 Tooting Bec. Food and
 childcare available.
 Organised by Wandsworth
 Trades Council. All
 welcome.

HACKNEY CITIZENS RIGHTS GROUP and HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL

- give legal advice on employ-
 ment problems. Advice will be
 available from solicitors and
 trade union officials, who
 will inform workers of their
 rights on dismissals, redun-
 dancies, maternity pay and
 racial and sexual discrimina-
 tion.
 Every Thursday evening, 6.30-
 7.30 pm at Centerprise, 136
 Kingsland High St, E8.



SANDBROOK COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Saturday 13 December: Christ-
 mas Fair. Craft and gift
 stalls including pottery,
 children's clothes, home pro-
 duce, toys, stocking fillers,
 jewellery. Raffle and Tombola.
 Refreshments. Father Christmas!
 2 pm at the Abney United
 Reformed Church, Stoke New-
 ington Church St, N16.
 Admission 10p

CITY & HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

This is a newly formed group
 of people concerned with men-
 tal health in City & Hackney.
 Recovery from mental illness
 can never be completed in
 hospital alone. You can help
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 from hospital by joining our
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Hoxton Hall is a community
 centre and theatre built in
 1863, with a range of facili-
 ties for all ages. It has a
 resident community drama
 group, theatre programme,
 arts activities and a play-
 group every morning. In
 addition, it is running a
 series of courses.

Class Programme

Tuesday -
 Pottery 10.30-12.30
 Iris Hutson
 Singing 2.00-4.00
 Wednesday
 Art 7.30-9.30
 Tony Coombs
 Come Dan-
 cing 7.30-9.30
 Old-Time
 Dancing 2.00-4.00
 Vi Gage, Barbara
 Wilderspin
 Thursday
 Crafts 10.30-12.30
 Sheila Morrison
 Drama 8.00-10.00
 Margaret Shepherd
 Keep Fit 7.00-9.00
 Pottery 7.00-9.00
 Iris Hutson
 Friday
 Pensioners' Discussion
 Groups 2.00-4.00

For details of fees and other
 information, call in at Hox-
 ton Hall, 128a Hoxton Street,
 any weekday from 10-6, or
 any Wed or Thurs evening.

Women's Aid



Advice Line

Hackney Women's Aid runs a
 telephone advice line for
 women, providing help for
 those who need to find a
 refuge, or seek advice on
 housing, custody, injunctions
 and other issues.

The advice service is open
 on THURSDAYS, from 1-5 pm.



Phone: 249 8334

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Tel : 254 6677

DECEMBER

Weekly Programme

Mon 1 for 6 days ANNIE HALL & MANHATTAN
 Mon 8 for 6 days ALL THAT JAZZ
 Mon 15 for 6 days HEARTBEAT & TAXI DRIVER
 Mon 22 for 2 weeks SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS
 (Not Sundays, or 24 & 25 December)

Sunday Matinees

Sun 7 December BLUE COLLAR & DAYS OF HEAVEN
 Sun 14 December Nuclear Benefit for Islington
 Anti-Apartheid Group:
 FOLLOW THE YELLOWCAKE ROAD &
 NUCLEAR WASTE IN THE IRISH SEA

Friday & Saturday Lates at 11.15 pm

Sat 6 December BLUE COLLAR & DAYS OF HEAVEN
 Fri 12 December THE SEDUCTION OF JOE TYNAN &
 NORTH DALLAS 40
 Sat 13 December IT'S ALIVE & IT LIVES AGAIN
 Fri 19 December HEARTBEAT & TAXI DRIVER

For times of weekly programmes and details of
 other Late Night shows and Matinees, please
 phone the cinema.

CARDS FROM CND



Original Hackney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
 Christmas cards. Choice of two designs, at 10p
 each, or 11 for £1.00. On sale at the next HCND
 meeting, on Monday 1 December, 8 pm at the Trades
 and Labour Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8. All welcome.
 Or, from Hackney CND, c/o: Box 27, Centerprise,
 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

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 adds savour
 to local news.**

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BLACK PEOPLE- HERE TO STAY, HERE TO FIGHT

Hackney Campaign Against Racism (HCAR) held a public meeting on Saturday 23 November with speakers from Newham Youth Movement, the Richard Campbell Campaign (see page 4) and Hackney Black Women's Group.

The meeting, attended by black people and white anti-racists, pledged its support to the self-defence of black people. It was agreed that, since black people don't have access to the forms of propaganda open to whites, white anti-racists should give support by making available these forms of propaganda, raising money for campaigns and educating the white working class in the workplace and on housing estates.

Autonomy

The meeting also agreed that, although white people

should give all active support possible, they must not threaten black autonomy in organisation and action, or substitute themselves for black self-defence. The failure of a number of white groups to honour black autonomy was a clear indication of their lack of understanding of the black experience of 400 years of slavery, oppression and exploitation. In many cases, these white groups used the fight against racism simply in order to recruit. White people must educate themselves about the black experience before they can give effective support to black people in their fight against the racism of the British state and British imperialism.

The main area of work for the coming months for all anti-racists will be campaigning against the Nationality Act designed to take away the right of abode in this country from many black people.

HCAR's position

The following statement outlines the position of HCAR:

"At a time of heavy unemployment, rising prices, housing shortage and cuts in schools, hospitals and social services, it's easy to forget the people at the bottom of the pile. Working class women, black people and youth are especially hard hit in times like these..

"As the depression gets worse, the rich and powerful are trying to solve their economic problems by attacking the poorest and weakest sections of the community. Black people, in particular, are really suffering.

"Black people know from experience how racism works - in the school system, in employment and housing, in the law courts and the police stations. The police in Hackney treat all black people as criminals. In the last 10 years, the Labour Party has brought in racist controls on black immig-

ration while the Conservatives called for the 'repatriation' of black people. Now the Tories intend to put this into action with the new 'Nationality Bill', due this year. Harassment of black people on the streets will increase.

Murdered

"All these things create a climate in which black people can openly be denied their rights and in which racists feel safe to physically attack black people. Aktar Ali Beig was murdered by racists in broad daylight on July 17 this year in East Ham. Richard Campbell, a 19-year-old black youth from Lewisham, was arrested on 'suspicion', kept in Ashford Remand Centre without his parents' knowledge and died 'in mysterious circumstances' while in detention. Fishing raids for 'illegal immigrants' in Hackney and Harringay has meant more harassment of black people.

Self-defence

"The only response to a racist system which attacks the right of black people to live peacefully in this country is black self-defence.

"Hackney Campaign Against Racism believes that black people have no choice but to defend their communities against racist attacks - from extreme right-wing groups, from the police, the law courts, the press and those politicians who seek to make political capital on the backs of black people. HCAR calls on all anti-racists to stand behind black people in their struggle against racism, wherever, whenever and in whatever form it takes.

Hackney Campaign Against Racism holds meetings every first Wednesday in the month at the Trades Hall, 94 Dalston Lane, E8, at 8 pm.

THE OTHER D.DAY



Photo: Chris Schwarz

The chap above with his tongue sticking out is not trying to win an ugly contest. He is, of course, local fascist Derrick Day, Hoxton's white power leader. He was snapped at a Remembrance Day parade in Whitehall organised by the National Front, which stepped in after another fascist organisation, the European Remembrance Association - whatever that might be - had cancelled their parade.

The ex-servicemen's organisations which run the regular Whitehall parades are thought to be getting fed up with the Front and other groups muscling in on their displays of patriotism - especially as many died fighting Nazism in the Second World War. It is unclear precisely what Day's military record is: perhaps as a registered disabled person and social security scrounger he managed to avoid call-up...

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